



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2005:016

SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the health status of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is of paramount importance to the USET member tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Service (IHS) has established and funded Epidemiology Centers in collaboration with Tribal entities to deliver evidence based health care throughout Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** epidemiology services have been identified as a priority by the USET member tribes to measure the health status of their Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Epidemiology Center was funded and established in fiscal year 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** the current IHS Loan Repayment Program does not include all public health professionals as priority positions; and
- WHEREAS,** the Loan Repayment Program will allow for public health professionals, such as epidemiologists, to be considered for loan repayment should they be listed as priority; and
- WHEREAS,** inclusion of public health professionals in the Loan Repayment Program will assist in recruitment and promote retention of qualified individuals within USET for the direct benefit of USET member tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHS Division of Epidemiology has endorsed the inclusion of the Epidemiology Centers' public health professionals in the Loan Repayment Program; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET organization employs several public health professionals that could potentially qualify for the IHS Loan Repayment Program; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET organization continues to grow in capacity and envisions recruiting additional public health professionals; and
- WHEREAS,** the ability to offer a potential source for loan repayment will be attractive to prospective employees; and
- WHEREAS,** a resolution of support from the governing body of the employing organization is required by the IHS for consideration; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly endorses and supports the inclusion of public health professionals, employed by USET, in the IHS Loan Repayment Program; and, be it further

“Because there is strength in Unity”

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RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors encourages the Administration and Congress to increase the level of funding for the IHS Loan Repayment Program to fund such inclusions and/or additions; and, be it further

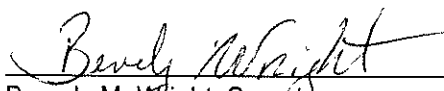
RESOLVED that the USET Health Committee requests a formal presentation regarding the IHS Loan Repayment Program during Impact Week, February 7-10, 2005 to address the process of priority position selection.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 28, 2004.



Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.